and then, as an excess of the test, was added, a fine powder of a greenish yellow colour, and in very small quantity appeared at the bottom of the fluid. Two hours had elapsed since the urine had been collected, and Dr. Roux fearing that possibly from the heat a little of the urea might have been transformed into carbonate of ammonia, a drop of muriatic acid was added, and a quarter of an hour after, there was a flocculent reddish yellow precipitate. Dr. Roux finally mixed with some normal urine a solution containing one-fifth of a grain of atropia; when to this the iodine solution was added, the liquid became clouded, and of a greenish colour, and after a time a greenish yellow precipitate fell, as in the first experiment, but much more copious. These experiments led Dr. Roux to conclude that this test of M. Bouchardat's is of such delicacy, that it may detect smaller quantities than even one-fifth of a grain of atropia in the urine. —*Ed. Med. Journ.*, Oct., 1860, from *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, 31st May, 1860.

41. *Tannin as an Antidote to Strychnia.*—As the result of many experiments performed on rabbits and dogs, Dr. Kurzak comes to the conclusion that tannin promptly administered is the best antidote in poisoning by strychnia. From twenty to twenty-five times the quantity of tannin is necessary; but even a larger amount should be administered, as the contents of the stomach, and especially gelatine, may absorb a portion. Tannin is the more eligible a remedy, inasmuch as it is easily procurable in the shape of gall-nuts. A portion may be rapidly reduced to powder and administered in water, while an infusion or decoction is prepared. For every grain of strychnia at least two and a half drachms of the gall-apples should be given. It will, indeed, be most prudent to administer a still larger quantity, especially when vomiting occurs. The experiments made by the author with *green tea* show that this also possesses a certain amount of efficacy; but, as it requires to be administered in such large doses, it becomes itself almost a poison. It can, therefore, only be of use when a very small quantity of strychnia has been taken, or as a mere adjuvatory. *Coffee* exerts still less effect. *Oak-bark*, containing 8.5 per cent. of tannic acid, may be advantageously used when the oak-apples are not accessible; and various other substances containing tannin, as acorns, horsechestnut-bark, green walnut-shell, &c. Vegetable acids must be avoided during the treatment of strychnia poisoning by tannin, as they favour the solution of the resulting precipitate. The same caution applies to alcoholic drinks. As the experiments have shown that active efforts increase or even induce the convulsions in strychnia poisoning, every care in treating the accident must be taken to avoid all such movements or any powerful stimulation.—*Med. T. and Gazette*, Sept. 29, from *Zeitschrift der Aerzte zu Wien*, No. xi.

42. *On the Danger of Green Paint in Artificial Leaves and Flowers.*—Dr. ARTHUR HILL HASSALL calls attention (*Lancet*, Dec. 1, 1860) to the employment of arsenite of copper (Scheele's green) in the manufacture of the green leaves and flowers so generally worn during the past year or two on bonnets, headdresses, wreaths, and other similar ornaments.

"The use," he says, "of emerald green for the manufacture of artificial leaves and flowers has been for the most part resorted to only within the last two or three years, and I am informed that there are from two to three hundred leaf-makers, all using this poisonous substance. The condition of these people, mostly young women and girls, but including some men and boys, is wretched in the extreme. They all labour, and many in a severe form, under symptoms of arsenical poisoning. The poison is diffused throughout the atmosphere they breathe, and is of course inhaled; further, it acts as a local irritant and escharotic on the hands and other parts of the body to which it becomes mechanically applied. The symptoms may be arranged into the constitutional and local; the former consist of general derangement of the health, debility, nervousness, headache, thirst, sickness, loss of appetite, and diarrhœa; the latter in soreness of the throat and gums, œdema about the eyes, soreness of and running from the nose, and in ugly-looking sores on the hands, face, neck, and other parts of the body, to which the poison finds access.

"Now, for all these evil effects no necessity whatever exists. In the first place, it is more than probable that a suitable substitute for the arsenical pigment might be found; and in the second, even if its use could not be dispensed with, it is certain that the more injurious and distressing consequences might be avoided by the adoption of certain simple and obvious precautions.

"Hitherto reference has been made only to the effects of the employment of the pigment on those engaged in the manufacture of the leaves and flowers. It is highly probable, however, that the wearers of these ornaments do not altogether escape from the serious consequences to which their poorer sisters are subject."

He relates the cases of two men engaged in the manufacture of these flowers, who suffered from the poisonous effects of the pigment, and states that eight young women and two boys, working in the same room with these men, were all sufferers. "They all had sores; the girls, at the back of the neck, on the sides of the nose, and on the hands; their eyes were also affected, and there was running from the nose. To such an extent was their health affected, that they were compelled from time to time to give up their work and return home."

Dr. H. further states that "arsenite of copper is employed for a great variety of purposes besides as a dye for colouring paper-hangings. In a letter inserted in the *Lancet* some months since, I pointed out that it was constantly used in the colouring of articles of furniture and dress. I also showed that another green pigment, probably scarcely less injurious than the arsenical preparation, was still more constantly employed to colour carpets, table-covers, curtains, clothes, dresses, and numerous other articles. This pigment is known as false Brunswick green, of which three shades are prepared, and it consists of Prussian blue or indigo with CHROMATE OF LEAD."

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43. *Medical Report of a Case of Poisoning by Arsenical Paper-Hangings.* By J. B. METCALFE, M.D.—Clarence W. King, son of W. T. King, Esq., of Beresford Lodge, Highbury, aged three years and a half, first manifested symptoms of being unwell on the morning of Thursday, November 1. He refused his breakfast, complained of chilliness, and was sick; at 10 A.M. he was seized with convulsions, for which he was put into a warm bath, and the attack soon passed off. On my arrival at 11 A.M. he was in a semi-comatose state, his countenance placid, surface of body warm; the bowels had acted several times, the stools passing off involuntarily, watery, bilious, and very offensive; pulse quick; tongue white; there was no abdominal tenderness on pressure. On visiting him again in the evening, I learned that slight convulsive twitchings of the facial muscles had been observed; that he had been more feverish, but was again less so; he had not been sick; the bowels were less freely relieved.

Thus far there were no symptoms of so grave a character as to lead to the supposition that they were attributable to any extraordinary cause; worms (to which the child was subject), or any other irritant, might have produced them. It was on the following day, at 7 A.M., when having been sent for on account of another child having been seized with convulsions, accompanied by violent shrieks, and severe dysenteric discharge from the bowels, that I noticed the great change which had taken place in the little fellow; he was almost in a state of asphyxia, the surface cold, pulse feeble, countenance livid. The application of warmth, administration of ammonia, and frequent supplies of warm milk, after the lapse of a little time produced somewhat of reaction; but in the afternoon he was again seized with a severe tetanic convulsion, and from that time alternations of repose and convulsion (amounting sometimes to perfect opisthotonos) continued until the little sufferer sank at 12 o'clock, thirty-eight hours after the commencement of the attack.

It is worthy of note that although all the symptoms were due to arsenical poisoning, as will appear in the sequel, there was no violent sickness; only once at the commencement of the attack was the child sick, and on one occasion on the second day when beef-tea was given instead of the milk.

A *post-mortem* examination was made on the following day, with reference to which it may be briefly remarked that the appearances were indicative of a healthy state of system; the child was fat and well nourished. For the appearances presented in the stomach and those parts which were forwarded to Dr. Letheby, the reader is referred to the report which is appended.